

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1 - 32 are currently pending. Claims 10 and 23 have been amended. Claim 30 - 32 have been added. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An input device comprising:
a body of said device;
electronic circuitry mounted in said body;
a top housing mounted over said body; and
a free extending button integrally formed with said top housing;
said extending button being depressible separately with respect to a remainder of said top housing;
said top housing providing a cantilevered mounting of said extending button to said body of said device; and
said cantilever mounting providing a spring force for the free extending button to return the free extending button to a neutral position subsequent to being pressed by a user.
2. (Previously presented) The input device of claim 1 wherein the top housing and extending button are metal.
3. (Original) The input device of claim 1 further comprising an island mounted on said body adjacent said extending button, said island having a lip extending over an edge of said extending button so that a gap between said extending button and said island is not visible from above.
4. (Original) The input device of claim 3 further comprising a second extending button, said second extending button extending underneath a second lip on a side of said island opposite said first mentioned extending button.

5. (Original) The device of claim 3 further comprising a roller extending through a slot in said island.

6. (Previously presented) The device of claim 5 further comprising:
a cantilevered arm supporting the roller, wherein the cantilevered arm provides a spring force to bias roller upward through the slot, eliminating the need for a return spring.

7. (Original) The input device of claim 1 wherein said top housing curves around a back of said device and attaches to said back of said device.

8. (Previously Presented) The input device of claim 7 further comprising a resilient bumper mounted between said top housing and said body where said top housing curves around said back of said device.

9. (Original) The input device of claim 1 further comprising:
a non-metallic interior housing mounted beneath said top housing between said top housing and electronic circuitry inside said device;
wherein said top housing is metal, and said interior housing isolates said metal from said electronic circuitry.

10. (Currently Amended) The input device of claim 1 wherein said top housing and extended button have a single hinge point more than halfway toward the back of said device and disposed in the remainder portion of the top housing, such that said top housing and extended button can flex on either side of said hinge point.

11. (Original) The input device of claim 1 wherein said device is a mouse.

12. (Previously Presented) A mouse comprising:
a body of said mouse;
electronic circuitry mounted in said body;
a top metal housing mounted over said body;

first and second free extending metal buttons integrally formed with said metal top housing;

said extending buttons being depressible separately with respect to a remainder of said top metal housing;

said top metal housing providing a cantilevered mounting of said extending buttons to said body of said device;

an island mounted on said body between said extending buttons, said island having lips extending over edges of said extending buttons so that a gap between said extending buttons and said island is not visible from above.

13. (Original) The mouse of claim 12 further comprising a roller extending through a slot in said island.

14. (Previously Presented) The mouse of claim 13 further comprising:
a cantilevered arm supporting the roller, wherein the cantilevered arm provides a spring force to bias the roller upward through the slot, eliminating the need for a return spring.

15. (Previously Presented) The mouse of claim 14 further comprising:
a top interior housing mounted below the top housing, wherein the cantilevered arm is attached to an inside surface of the top interior housing behind the roller.

16. (Previously Presented) The input device of claim 6 further comprising:
a top interior housing mounted below the top housing, wherein the cantilevered arm is attached to an inside surface of the top interior housing behind the roller.

17. (Previously Presented) The mouse of claim 12, wherein the cantilever mounting is configured to provide a spring force for the first and second free extending metal buttons to return the first and second free extending metal buttons to a neutral position subsequent to being pressed by a user.

18. (Previously Presented) The mouse of claim 12, wherein said top metal housing and said first and second free extending metal buttons have respective single hinge points, such that said top metal housing and said first and second free extending metal buttons can flex on either side of said respective single hinge points.

19. (Previously Presented) The mouse of claim 18, wherein said respective single hinge points are more than halfway toward the back of said device.

20. (Previously Presented) The mouse of claim 12, wherein said top metal housing is disposed over a substantial portion of said body.

21. (Previously Presented) The mouse of claim 12, wherein said top metal housing is disposed over substantially all of said body.

22. (Previously Presented) An input device comprising:
a body of said device;
electronic circuitry mounted in said body;
a top metal housing mounted over said body;
a free extending button integrally formed with said top metal housing, said free extending button being depressible separately with respect to a remainder of said top metal housing, and said top metal housing providing a cantilevered mounting of said free extending button to said body of said device; and
a non-metallic interior housing mounted beneath said top metal housing between said top metal housing and said electronic circuitry, wherein said interior housing isolates said top metal housing from said electronic circuitry.

23. (Currently Amended) An input device comprising:
a body of said device;
electronic circuitry mounted in said body;
a top housing mounted over said body; and
a free extending button integrally formed with said top housing;

said extending button being depressible separately with respect to a remainder of said top housing,

said top housing providing a cantilevered mounting of said extending button to said body of said device, and

said top housing and extended button have a single hinge point more than halfway toward the back of said device and disposed in the remainder portion of the top housing, such that said top housing and extended button can flex on either side of said hinge point.

24. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 23, wherein the top housing is press fit to the body.

25. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 23, wherein the top housing is disposed over a substantial portion of said body.

26. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 23, wherein the top housing is disposed over substantially all of said body.

27. (Previously Presented) An input device comprising:
a body of said device;
electronic circuitry mounted in said body;
a top housing mounted over said body; and
a free extending button integrally formed with said top housing, wherein said extending button is depressible separately with respect to a remainder of said top housing, and said top housing provides a cantilevered mounting of said extending button to said body of said device;

an island mounted on said body adjacent said extending button, said island having a lip extending over an edge of said extending button so that a gap between said extending button and said island is not visible from above;

a roller extending through a slot in said island; and

a cantilevered arm supporting the roller, wherein the cantilevered arm provides a spring force to bias roller upward through the slot, eliminating the need for a return spring.

28. (Previously Presented) The input device of claim 1, wherein said top housing is disposed over a substantial portion of said body.

29. (Previously Presented) The input device of claim 1, wherein said top housing is disposed over substantially all of said body.

30. (New) The input device of claim 1, further comprising a mounting configured to mechanically coupled the top housing and the body at the remainder portion of the top housing, wherein the remainder portion of the top housing includes an extended portion that extends toward a back of the body from the mounting

31. (New) The input device of claim 30, wherein the remainder portion of the top house is flexible.

32. (New) The input device of claim 31, wherein the flexibility of the extended portion provides distribution of compression forces exerted on the extended portion.